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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH REMINDS EVERYONE TO PREPARE NOW

Use Extra Precautions Due to COVID-19



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Pensacola, Fla. – In observance of September being National Preparedness Month, the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County (FDOH-Escambia) encourages residents to prepare for disasters, especially hurricanes and tropical storms, and take [special considerations](#) for protecting against COVID-19.

August saw a historical event of two tropical systems impacting the Gulf Coast in the same week. September and October are often the most active months of the Atlantic hurricane season. Hurricanes and tropical storms cause high winds, flooding, heavy rain, and storm surges. Even if there is limited risk of landfall, it is important to be prepared and plan ahead to ensure your family's health and safety.

Tips to help you prepare now:

- Know your [evacuation zone](#) and determine storm risks to your home, property, or business. Plan how you will evacuate.
- Assemble an [emergency supply kit](#). Include enough food and supplies for you and your family for at least 72 hours (accommodate pets if you have them). Include any medications you may need. Ask your doctor about how to safely store prescription medications such as heart and high blood pressure medication, insulin and other prescription drugs.
- Check your insurance coverage and ensure you have copies of important documents in your emergency supply kit.
- Strengthen your home and complete any needed repairs.
- Identify trusted sources of weather information. [Get tech ready](#).
- Develop a [written disaster plan](#), practice it with your family, and keep it in a safe, easily accessible location.
- Pay attention to [local guidance](#) about updated plans for evacuations and shelters, including shelters for your pets.

As the storm approaches:

- Review your written hurricane plan.
- Check your emergency supply kit. Include face coverings and hand sanitizer.
- Cover windows with storm shutters or plywood.
- Secure movable outdoor items by relocating them into a garage or shed.
- [Prepare your vehicle](#). Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Tune in to local news or radio for up-to-date information.
- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity, and water in case you need to evacuate.

- Designate a shelter or a room without windows in your home if you cannot evacuate.

If you are medically dependent on electricity or oxygen, sign up with [Florida's Special Needs Registry](#). Specific information regarding the [Escambia County Special Needs Registry and Public Shelter Program](#) and other disaster-related information is available at [EscambiaHealth.com](#).

The [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) and the [National Hurricane Center](#) are resources for weather information and will issue frequent watches, warnings, forecasts and analyses of severe tropical weather. Stay up to date with local preparedness information at [bereadyescambia.com](#).

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About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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